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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EURE-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

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TAGS: ELAB, OECD
SUBJECT: MSA: SOCIAL INDICATORS WORKING PARTY MEETING, JUNE 13-15, 1973

REF: A) SI/57 - DRAFT PRINCIPLES FOR STATISTICAL INDICATORS
B) SI/59 - SI DEVELOPMENT IN AREA OF HEALTH, MAY 9,1973
C) SI/60 - SI DEVELOPMENT IN AREA OF PERSONAL SAFETY, MAY 11, 1973
D) SI/58- PRIORITIES FOR PHASE II, JUNE 7, 1973
E) MO(73)4, FIRST REVISION , APRIL 5, 1973

DEPT PASS LABOR FOR STEWART; OMB FOR SHISHKIN

1. SUMMARY: INAUGURAL MEETING FOR PHASE II FOCUSSED ON PRINCIPLES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICAL INDICATORS (REF A) AND ON PROPOSED INDICATORS IN FIELDS OF HEALTH (REF B) AND PERSONAL SAFETY (REF C). SOME OF THE MAJOR ISSUES IN THE DISCUSSION ARE REPORTED BELOW. SECRETARIAT WILL REDRAFT REFS A, B, AND C FOR NEXT MEETING OF WP, WHICH IS NOW TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR FIRST WEEK IN DECEMBER. WP AGREED CONCERNS ABOUT FAMILY NUTRITION AND CRIMINAL REHABILITATION SHOULD BE ADDED TO PHASE I LIST. WP ALSO REELECTED PRESENT SLATE OF OFFICERS: CHAIRMAN, DEROO (BELGIUM);
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VICE- CHAIRMAN, PREFONTAINE (CANADA), LATTO (FINLAND) AND KOGANE (JAPAN). STEERING GROUP WAS EXPANDED SO THAT IT NOW INCLUDES US, SWEDEN AND FRG (IN ADDITION TO FRANCE, UK AND WP OFFICERS). END SUMMARY.

2. PRIORITIES AND WORK ORGANIZATION FOR PHASE II- WP AGREED WITH FOUR AREAS OF WORK PROPOSED BY SECRETARIAT FOR " FIRST LEVEL" PRIORITY IN PHASE II (REF D). IT ALSO FAVORED ELEVATION OF WORK ON COMMAND OVER GOODS AND SERVICES INTO " FIRST LEVEL" BUT WAS UNABLE TO AGREE ON WHAT WORK WOULD THEREBY BE DISPLACED. SECRETARIAT (REID) SAID IT WOULD TRY TO ACCOMMODATE WP DESIRE. REID ALSO NOTED PAUCITY OF RESOURCES MADE SECOND WP MEETING THIS YEAR A TENTATIVE DECISION. AT NEXT WP MEETING SECRETARIAT SAID IT WOULD PREPARE (A) REVISIONS OF REFS A AND B, (B) REVISION OF SPECIFICATION FOR
PERSONAL SAFETY ASPECTS ONLY OF REF C, (C) NOTE ON PROPOSED FINAL FORM PHASE II REPORT, AND (D) NOTE ON WP DECISIONS TO ADD TO LIST OF FUNDAMENTAL CONCERNS A FUNDAMENTAL CONCERT ON THE FAMILY AND SU- CONCERNS ON NUTRITION AND CRIMINAL REHABILITATION.

3. GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICAL INDICATORS THE WP RAISED A NUMBER OF BASIC CRITICISMS WHICH THE SECRETARIAT WILL CONSIDER IN REDRAFTING REF A: (A) PARA 25, WHICH INDICATES PHASE II MIGHT SUGGEST CHANGES IN NATIONAL METHODS OF GATHERING STATISTICS, CAME UNDER HEAVY FIRE. THE CANADIANS SAID THEY WOULD NOT ACCEPT THIS AS A PRINCIPLE FOR PHASE II; THEY AND OTHERS POINTED OUT PARA 25 CONTRADICTS PARA 7, WHICH SPECIFICALLY RULES OUT ADJUSTEMENT F DATA IN MEMEBER COUNTRIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE OECD PROGRAM; (B) THE WP CONSENSUS (LED BY THE US, UK, AND FRG) FAVORED USE OF DATE ALREADY AVAILABLE IN MEMBER COUNTRIES IN DEVELOPMENT OF INDICATORS AND REJECTED THE ARGUMENTATION IN PARA 6; (C) THE CONSENSUS ALSO FAVORED REPLACEMENT OF PARA 17 WITH THE STATEMENT ON PERCEPTIVE INDICATORS IN PARA 16 OF REF E: (D) THE SECRETARIAT AGREED TO REPLACE PARA 9 WITH PARA 24 OF REF E, THUS MEETING CRITICISM (BU UK, SWEDEN AND FINLAND) THAT CONSIDERATION OF ONLY RELATIVE LEVELS OF WELL- BEING WOULD MAKE INTERNATIONAL COMPARABILITY IMPOSSIBLE: AND (E) RE THE QUESTION OF " VALID" INDICATORS
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THE WP FOUND PARA 16 DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND BUT STATED ITS PREFERENCE FOR A BALANCE BETWEEN A LARGE NUMBER OF INDICATORS AND A FEW " SUPER- INDICATORS" (AGGREGATES) FOR EACH FUNDAMENTAL CONCERN.

THERE WAS ALSO GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THE US SUGGESTION THAT FUTURE SECRETARIAT DRAFTS OF INDICATOR SPECIFICATIONS

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INCLUDE AN ANNEX SHOWING WHICH DATA WAS USED UN FORMULATING
PROPOSALS.

4. INDICATOR DEVELOPMENT IN HEALTH AREA.

THE NEW DRAFT OF REF B WILL REFLECT STRONG SUPPORT FOR
INDICATORS OF THE SOCIAL ASPECTS OF HEALTH: AVAILABILITY OF
HEALTH CARE; MENTAL HEALTH; AND NARCOTIC PROBLEMS, INCLUDING
ALCOHOLISM.

5. INDICATOR DEVELOPMENT IN AREA OF PERSONAL SAFETY

WP FELT REF C OVERLY CONCENTRATED ON CRIMINAL ASPECTS
WHICH WERE DIFFICULTTO COMPARE
BECAUSE OF DEFFERENCES BETWEEN MEMBER COUNTRIES ' LEGAL SYSTEMS.
SECRETARIAT ACCEPTED CRITICISM THAT VIOLENCE SHOULD BE MORE
BROADLY DEFINED TO INCLUDE EXPOSURE OF INDIVIDUAL TO
VIOLENCE I WORKSHOP AND AT HOME AS WELL AS IN STREETS.
SECRETARIAT (JOHNSTON) FELT SMALL NUMBER OF WELL- DEFINED
CRIMINAL ACTS COULD BE COMPARED INTERNATIONALLY AND
INDICATED INTENTION TO POSE THIS QUESTION
TO STATISTICAL EXPERTS WHO WILL MEET LATER THIS
YEAR TO CONSIDER BROADER PROBLEM OF INTERNATIONAL
COMPARABILITY IN OECD PROGRAM. BROWN

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